

Scales on the middle of the back are large, keeled, and intermixed with numerous larger swollen ones. Scales smaller on the sides with numerous conical spines of various sizes and shapes. Limbs short, the adpressed hind limb reaching the axilla or slightly beyond, covered with large strongly keeled scales. Pores vary from 12 to 16 and are situated on the proximal portion of the thigh and the preanal region only. Tail round, slightly depressed at the base where the scalation is similar to that on the back, the rest of the tail being covered with regular strongly keeled scales. Grows to 14 in.

The coloration is variable, changing from almost uniform dark brown to buckthorn brown or ochraceous tawny; there are many specimens with lighter or darker blotches and often a regular transverse banding can be seen. In the lighter specimens a dark mark at the side of the neck is easily seen. The western form is distinguished from the eastern typical reptile by the slighter development of the spines forming the so-called "beard" and by its smaller size (see comparative photographs by S. R. White, *W.A. Nat.*, 2 (4), 1950: 95). A third subspecies *Amphibolurus barbatus minimus*, Loveridge, has been described to include still smaller specimens from the Abrolhos and the vicinity of Geraldton. A fourth form, *Amphibolurus barbatus microlepidotus* Glauert, known only from the Drysdale River area in the far north has been separated from its relatives by the smaller scales on the head and body and by the oblique arrangement of the enlarged keeled scales on the back, very few of which are spinose (*W.A. Nat.*, 3 (7), 1952: 168).

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Terrestrial Activity of the Swamp Tortoise.**—On July 23, 1958, I saw a Swamp Tortoise (*Chelodina oblonga*) crossing the old Bunbury road at Coolup. The tortoise was going from a roadside puddle on the west side of the road to another on the other side. It showed a strong desire to continue east even though it was turned back several times.

W. McARTHUR, Nedlands.

**Northern Extension of Known Range of Brush Bronzewing.**—In late March, 1959, we observed three individuals of the Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*) near the mouth of the Hill River. The first bird was flushed from a track through dense *Acacia rostellifera* scrub, 3 miles north of the ford over the lower Hill. The second was at a freshwater pool, a mile upstream from the mouth of the river. The last was flushed from the road, again in *Acacia rostellifera*, 5 miles south of the ford. Only the second bird was seen in circumstances that permitted no doubt of its identity.

It is noteworthy that the habitat of these pigeons (coastal *Acacia* shrub) is similar to much of Garden Island, where the species is common (G.M.S., unpublished data).

Previously there was no record of the Brush Bronzewing on the mainland further north than Moora (60 miles to the ESE).

—G. M. STORR, Nedlands, and J. R. FORD, Attadale.